

What is claimed is:

[Claim 1] A manual push-button method of selecting a trusted or un-trusted mode of port to port communications on Layer 2 Ethernet switching devices.

[Claim 2] A method by which a Layer 2 Ethernet switch operates individual ports. The first mode of port operation, trusted mode, enables the device attached to the port to transmit data to or receive data from any other port on the switch (both trusted and un-trusted ports). The second mode of port operation, un-trusted mode, limits the device attached to the un-trusted port to transmit data to and receive data from trusted ports only, thereby prohibiting communication to and from all other device with attached to un-trusted ports.